

### **Need/Coordination (Required from all applicants)**

- a. Explain how the project fills a gap that cannot be provided through other means and how a significant gap will exist in the local service area if the project does not receive Supportive Housing Program funding. Include information from your local CoC unmet needs data or other statistics demonstrating the need for the program such as project outcomes, project occupancy rate, project waiting list, etc. For projects not currently funded describe the need for Supportive Housing funds based on program expansion, increased utilization of the program, funding cuts, etc.

The Jefferson County Continuum of Care is still committed to working on understanding the nature of homelessness and being part of the solution to ending homelessness by 2015. The local coalition continues to agree that the top priority is to serve the chronically homeless and develop permanent supportive housing options in the community. The Beacon House Safe Haven was the first permanent supportive housing program in a rural area that has a drop inn center within the building. The drop Inn center continues to serve as a place where homeless individuals can congregate in this rural setting. Since August of 2013, 80 households have been referred to the drop inn center for a coordinated intake to assess housing needs and case coordination. 50% of these households have been referred from the local homeless shelter or the street. In 2014 the Point In Time Count identified 66 homeless households living in emergency and transitional housing placements within Jefferson County. The local community continues to have a limited number of available permanent supportive housing units, coupled with the lack of available emergency housing units. The local city rescue mission has 26 beds and continually runs at capacity. Currently the Beacon House is the only permanent supportive housing option that is staffed and operated by trained professionals who have the expert knowledge and supportive services available to help those who are chronically homeless and suffer from a severe mental illness. The Beacon House has an average occupancy rate of 98.3% and has 10 individuals on a waiting list. In calendar year 2013 100% of program participants met their housing stability goal and 100% of those who left the Beacon House went onto permanent housing placements. The local PHA is operating at a 99.8% occupancy rate and the current waiting time to receive a Housing Choice Voucher is 4 years. Furthermore, this community continues to struggle with high unemployment rates due to the loss of the steel industry and the slow growing impact of the gas and oil industry. For instance, according to the American Community Survey 5 –year estimates chart, 13.9% of the individuals in this community 18 years of age and older had incomes below the national poverty line in 2011. If the

Beacon House would not get funded as it has in the past at the previous funding levels, the loss of these 10 beds would create an even larger gap within the continuum of care. Coleman Professional Services will continue as a local system of care to attempt to retool and expand the existing programs and resources to work towards putting an end to chronic homelessness.

- b. Describe how the applicant participates in the planning work of their Homeless Planning Region and/or CoC: The description must include discussion of the applicant's participation in Homeless Planning Region/CoC committees/workgroups, if any. This should include identification of the level of involvement of the applicant and the role they play within each committee/workgroup identified.

Dan Oberman, Assistant Director of the Jefferson County Prevention and Recovery Board is a member of the Executive Committee for the Region and also participates on the Local Continuum Committee. Coleman Professional Services staff will be active participants on the Local Continuum and on the Regional Committee as evidenced by their participation in the other communities in which they are involved. These communities include Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Portage, Stark and Trumbull Counties where Coleman has been a leader in the provision and ongoing support of permanent supportive housing.